

Dear Chairman Hauck and fellow members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee,

My name is Ben Gelt, and I am the co-founder of the Cannabis Certification Council, a Colorado-based nonprofit focused on sustainability and standards within the cannabis industry. My group has connected and advised on regulatory and business interests nationwide since 2014. I also serve on the Denver Cannabis Industry Stakeholder Committee, the Colorado MED Sustainability, Science and Policy work group, the Denver Cannabis Sustainability Working Group, and the Colorado Energy Office Cannabis Advisory Committee and has served on the State of Colorado Pesticide Stakeholder Committee.

I'm writing to voice my support for House Bills 6056 and 6057, which would allow for composting facilities licensed in Michigan to transport and process Marihuana Plant Waste.

The issue of composting organic waste generated from cannabis cultivation is being mitigated across the country. In states that allow medicinal and/or recreational marihuana usage, the issue of what to do with the plant waste became apparent very quickly. Marijuana cultivators had piles of organic plant waste, but no legal way to efficiently send it off to compost (the way you can with lawn waste). Further, the requirements to render the waste "inert" often led what could have been processed into environmentally beneficial compost to be mixed with garbage and landfilled.

The bills in front of you are designed to clearly differentiate marihuana plant waste from other parts of the plant used for medicinal or recreational purposes. Marihuana plant waste is defined as "'root, stalk, leaf, stem, or root ball of a marihuana plant, including any associated soil or organic potting media". This means that licensed composters will be transporting and processing parts of the plant with no other value.

Composting in the cannabis industry is key to our environmental and sustainability goals. Why let perfectly good material go to waste when it can be turned back into nutrient rich soil? Thank you for your time and consideration of these two bills. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about these efforts in other states.

Ben Gelt
Board Chair
Cannabis Certification Council